

this is a sample and a summary of the ancient Hawaiian salt-making project. The project will be done by May 8, 1982. It is a complete slide show of all the steps of ancient Hawaiian salt-making

ANCIENT HAWAIIAN SALT-MAKING AT THE PONDS OF HANAPEPE

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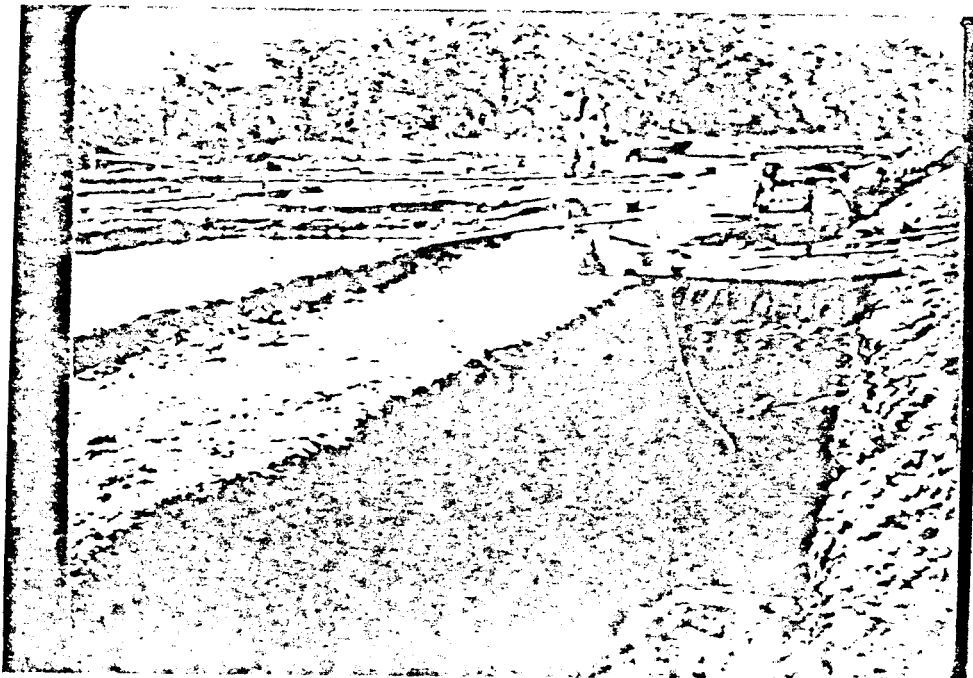
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SALT MAKING AT THE PONDS OF HANAPEPE

Making salt still involves the back-breaking work it did over a hundred years ago when the king granted this land for Hawaiians in Hanapepe to work as salt-ponds. About the same equipment used then are used now, rough stones, flat stones, wooden rakes or wire rakes, rope, bucket or tin cans, and bamboo poles.

The season opens in May about the time the marshy waters recede and runs through September when the hot summer sun is best for harvesting. Rains dilute the salt water forming the crystals, and delay the harvesting.

Today it is amazing to behold such antiquated operations. After you find a suitable place for salt making, you dig a salt water well (puna wai), 5 to 7 feet or until you reach the salt water, the well should fill with water in a day or two.



(Puna
Wai)

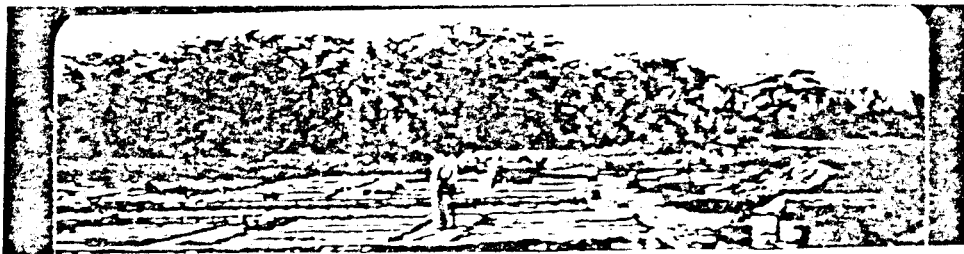
And then you have to build the curing pond (wai ku) and the drying basin (aina), removing all excess mud by hand to form a retaining wall and using the wet clay as plaster.

(wai ku)



(aina)

The 18 ft. x 8 ft. waiku, and 6 ft. x 4 ft. aina beds must be absolutely leak proof, and level which is done ✓ with the rough stone, and the final smoothing process is done with a large flat and smooth stone dipped in and out of water. The stones are brought from the river.



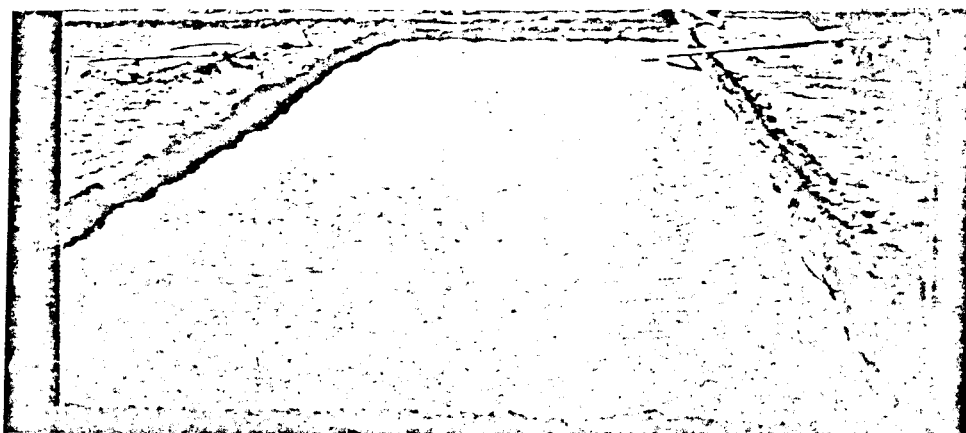
The beds are left to dry under a hot sun for 1 or 2 hours, and the beds must be crack-proof.

The well is the source of brackish water which is brought up by rope attached to old buckets or tin cans



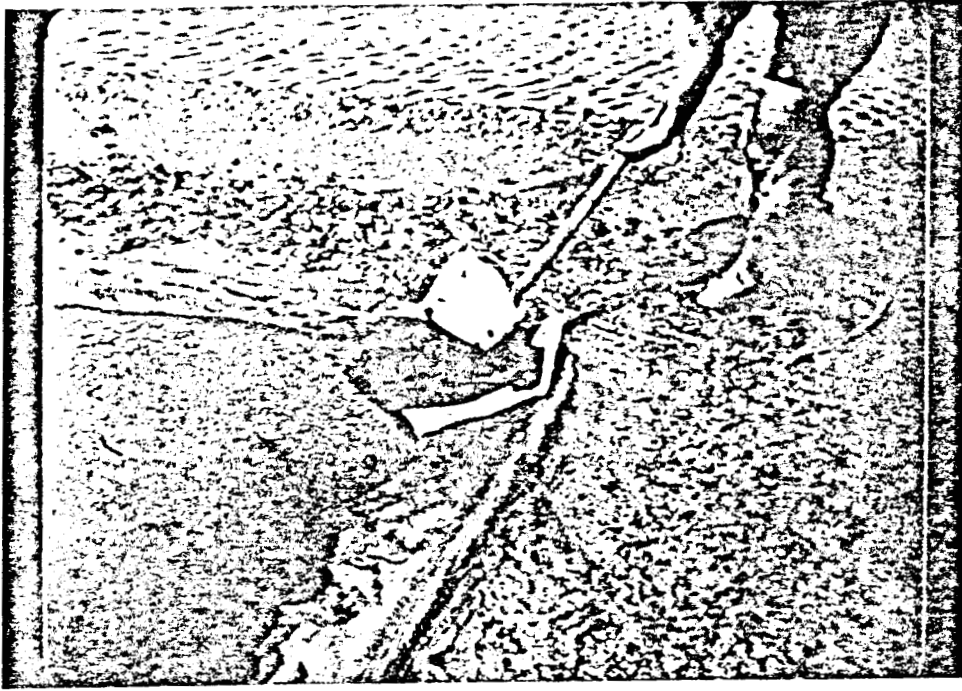
(Puna wai)

tied to bamboo poles to fill the waiku, a curing pond where water stands for 3 to 4 days before it is transferred to the aina, the drying basin.



(Waiku)

The aina is filled with about 3 or 4 inches to start, and after 3 days,

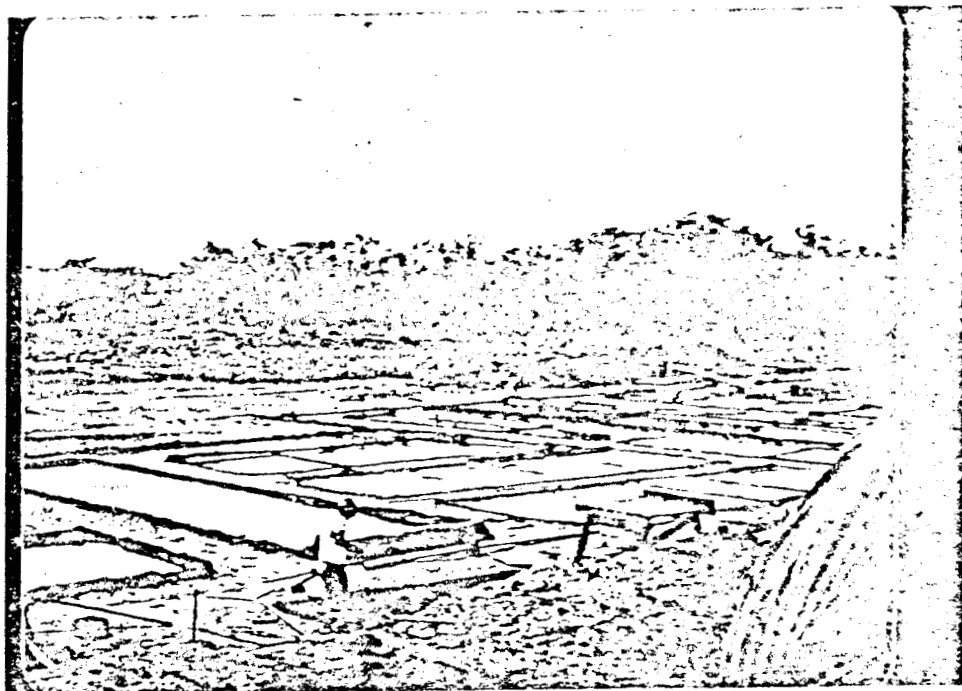


(Aina)

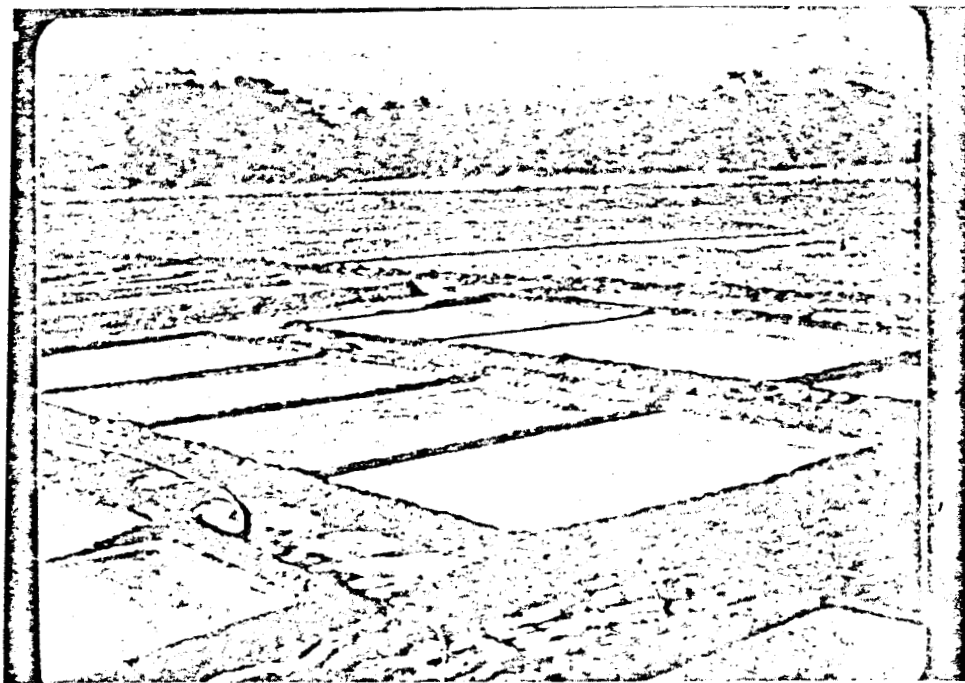
crystals which resemble snow flakes and sparkling diamonds begin to form and float to the surface.



These beds . . . five, eight, 10 or 12 of them
. . . must be checked every day,

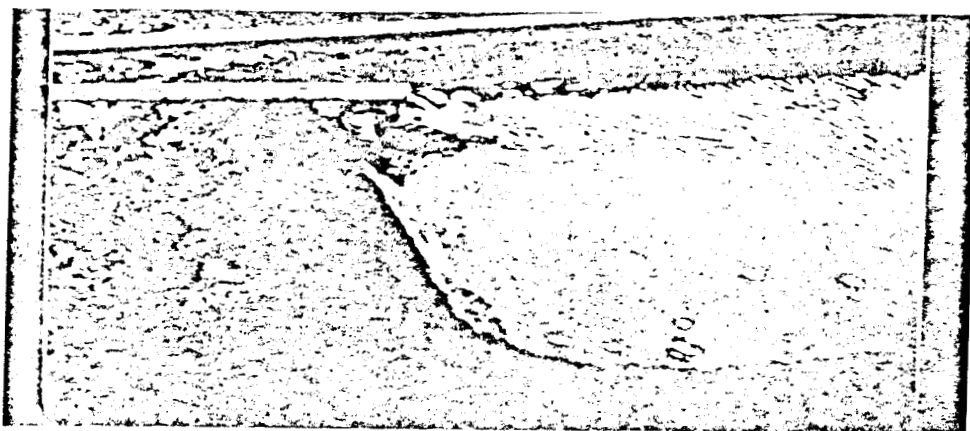


(forming to crystals)

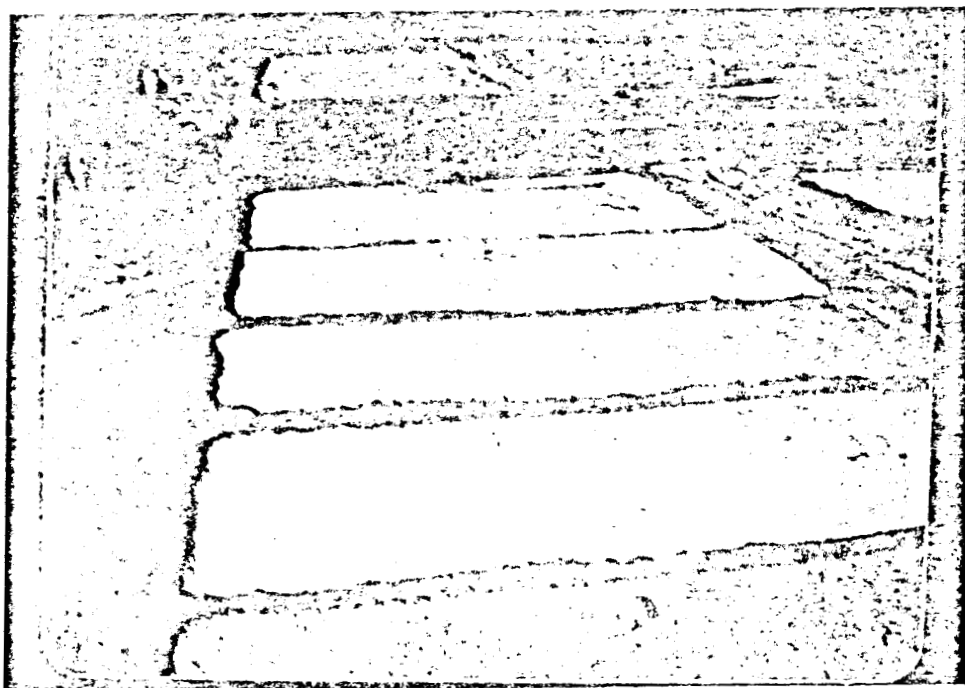


(a number of beds with crystals)

and if the sun is really hot and evaporation takes place faster, you must add two inches more of water

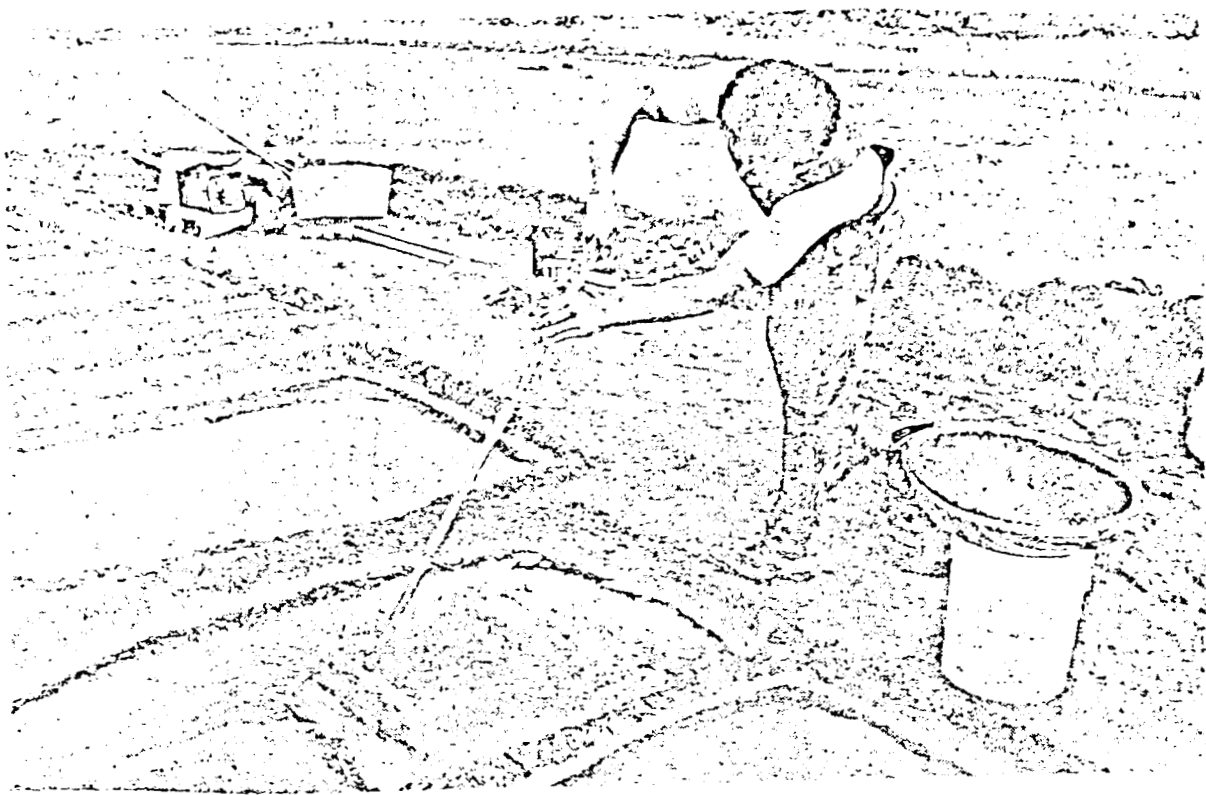


from the waiku every other day.



When three inches of pure salt forms, it is time to harvest.

The salt is pushed by long-handled home-made rakes
to the ends of the beds,



then gathered up in bamboo baskets.



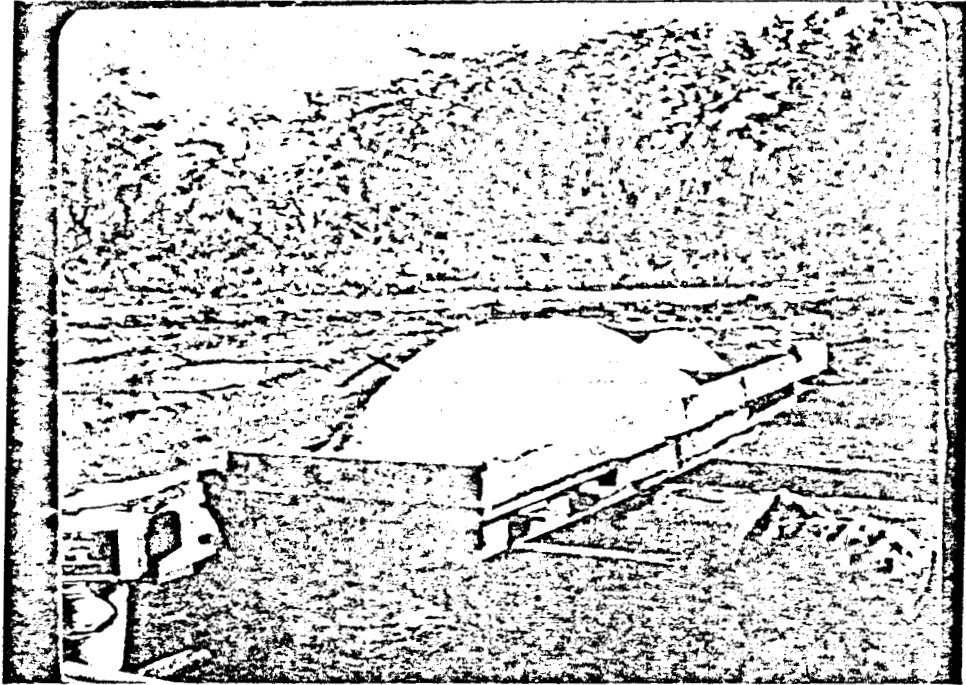
By tossing the salt in the basket or rubbing the large crystals together in the palms of the hands, it is broken down into smaller bits.



If the crystals are dirty, the salt is washed
in the waiku thereby strengthening that supply.



Piled in a big mound, it is left to dry for a week and bagged.



And after all this hard work the salt is not sold! However, there is a big demand for the Hanapepe salt, and a system of bartering has been set-up and it works out beautifully.